MBTA Key Bus Route Improvement Program

Community Meeting
Route 77

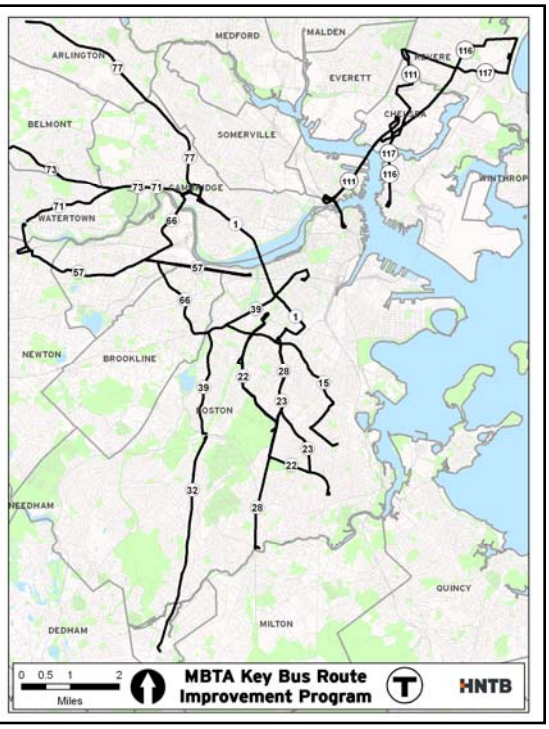
September 27, 2011
Arlington Town Hall
Arlington Center

Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Safety briefing/Accommodations
- Key Bus Route Program overview
- Existing conditions
- Recommendations
- Next Steps
- Discussion

Introduction

- Enhancements to 15 Key Bus Routes
- Funded by $10 million ARRA grant



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Implementation Process

- Coordination with municipalities
- Development of initial concepts
- Community meetings
- Incorporation of public comments
- Refinement of concepts and final community buy-in
- Design and construction

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Key Bus Route Goals

- **Reliability**
  - less bus bunching, improved on-time performance
- **Faster service**
  - Less stops, shorter trip times, fewer delays
- **Improved accessibility**
  - for seniors and persons with disabilities
- **Passenger amenities**
  - Shelters, benches, signage, trash receptacles

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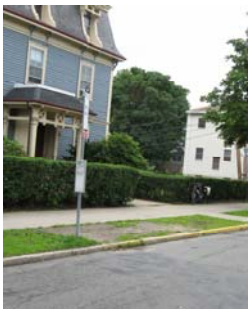
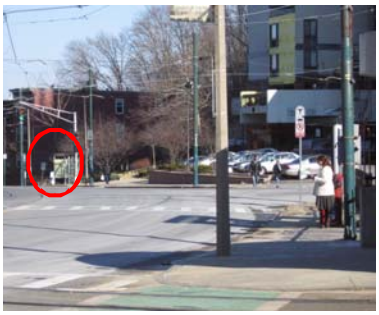
Typical Conditions

Bus stop too short



Poorly located boarding area



Bus stops too close

Signage issues

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Improved Accessibility

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Legal Mandate

- All bus doors must open at curb
- Deter cars from parking in stops

Providing accessible curb access requires longer bus stops

- Bus Stops must meet Current Guidelines for 40' buses

Farside – 60-65ft

Nearside – 90-100ft

Required Bus Stop Lengths

40' bus

Midblock (or after left hand turn) – 100-110ft

Reliability Issues

- Bus 'bunching'
- Overcrowding
- On-time performance

Preferred Bus Stop Locations

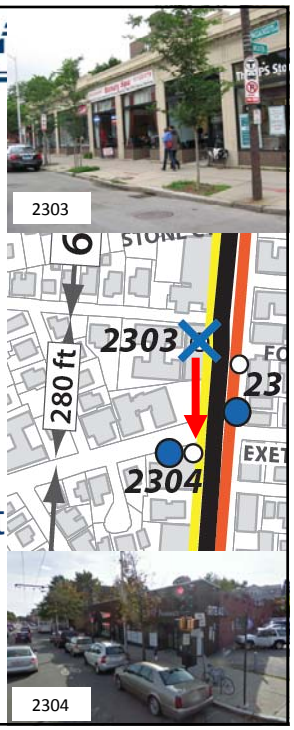
- Appropriate distance between stops
- Sufficient length to allow buses to pull to the curb
- Clear boarding/alighting area
- Not blocking crosswalks or driveways
- Considerate of adjacent traffic and parking

Reliability and Faster Service: Stop Location Considerations

- Ridership – customer boardings and alightings
- Proximity to schools, medical centers etc
- Reducing traffic congestion
- Parking impacts
- Potential to add amenities – shelters, benches etc.
- Distance to adjacent stops

Optimized Bus Stop Spacing

- Ideal spacing is one stop every 750-1,320 ft (4-7/mi)
- Resulting walk time: 4-6 min
- Route 77 has an average of approximately 700 ft
- Some stops as close as 280 ft



Bus Stop Consolidation

Benefits

- Shortens bus trip times
- Improves service reliability
- Minimizes “stop & go” experience
- Provides additional parking spaces
- Ability to provide better stop amenities

Traffic Signal Improvements

- Provide longer green time for buses
- Reduce overall congestion
- Requires coordination with roadway authority

Improved Amenities

Shelters

Trash receptacles

Benches

Pavement markings

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Bus Arrival Times

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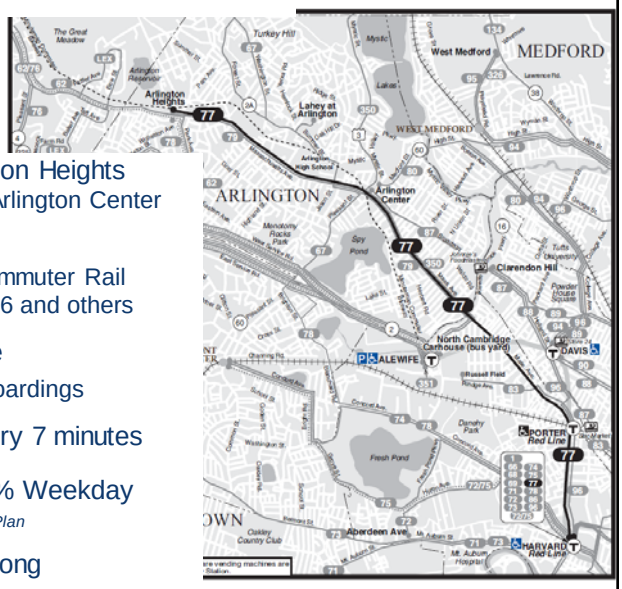
Route 77: Overview

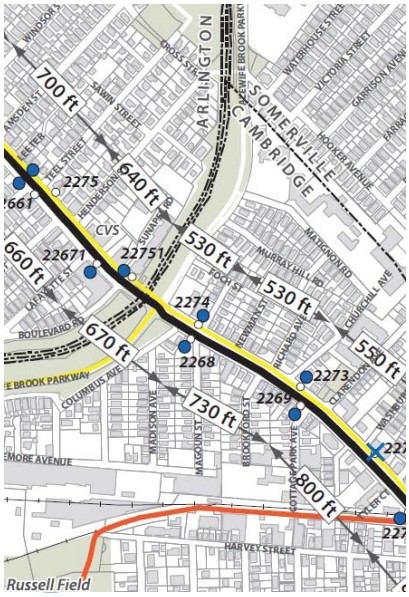


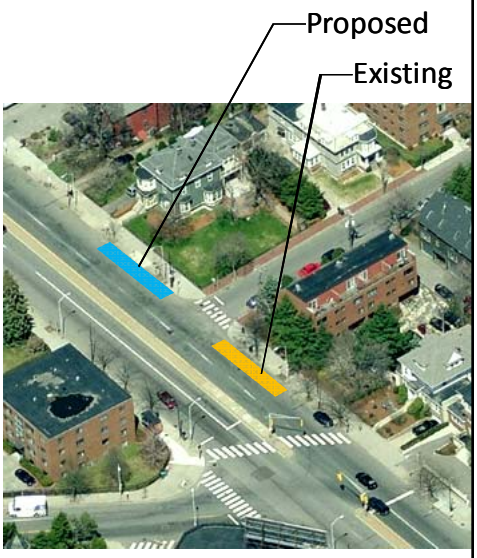
- Harvard Square to Arlington Heights
  - Via Porter Square and Arlington Center
- Connects to:
  - MBTA Red Line and Commuter Rail
  - MBTA Bus Routes 83, 96 and others
- MBTA's 13th busiest route
  - Over 6,551 avg. daily boardings
- Peak hour headways every 7 minutes
- On-time performance 70% Weekday

  Source: MBTA's 2008 Biennial Service Plan
- Approximately 5.3 miles long
- 77 Stops: 38 IB (to Harvard) and 39 OB (to Arlington)

Revised Preliminary Recommendations Route 77

Explanation of Maps





Revised Preliminary Recommendations Route 77 in Cambridge

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Mass Ave @ Chauncy/Everett St

Remove IB and OB stops to improve stop spacing. Reinstate parking.

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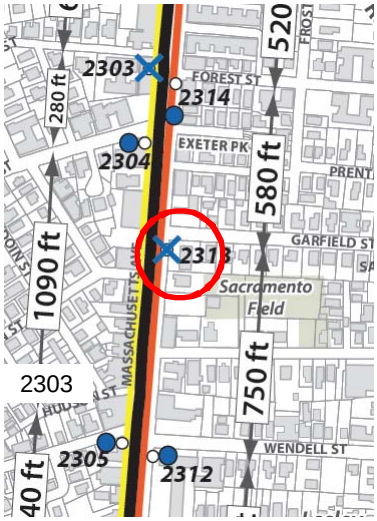
Mass Ave @ Linnaean & Shepard Streets IB

Investigate adding shelters.

Mass Ave @ Garfield St OB

Remove stop to improve spacing.
Reinstate parking.



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Mass Ave @ Forest St OB

Relocate stop to improve spacing. Add bench.

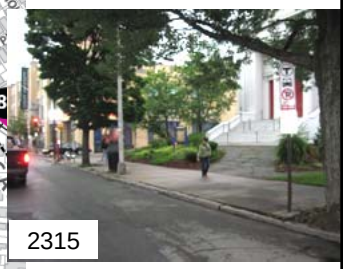
Mass Ave @ Lancaster St IB

Remove stop to improve spacing.

25 9/27/2011

Mass Ave @ Roseland St OB/ Mt Vernon St IB

Remove stops due to low ridership and to improve stop spacing. Reinstate parking.



26 9/27/2011

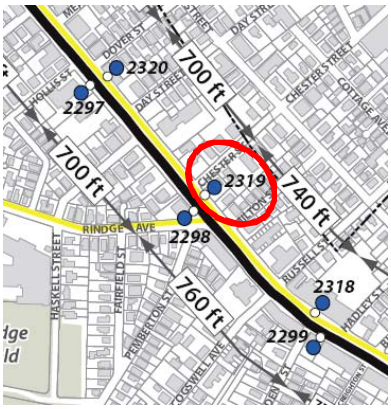
Mass Ave @ Beech St OB

Remove OB stop due to low ridership and to improve spacing and traffic flow.

27 9/27/2011

Mass Ave @ opp Rindge Ave OB

Retain stop nearside of Chester St., but farside of crosswalk.



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Mass Ave @ Dover St OB (Opt 1)

Remove stop to improve spacing and traffic flow.

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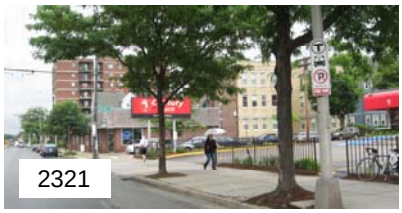
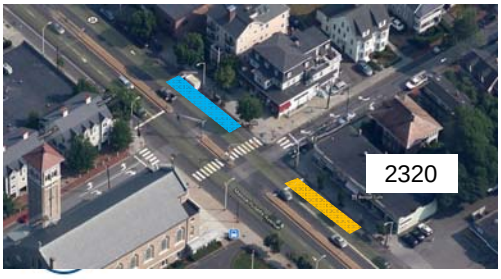
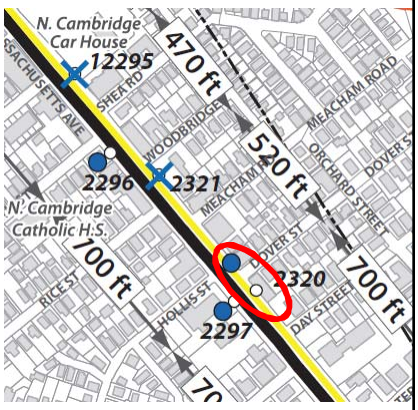
Mass Ave @ Dover St (Opt 2) / Woodbridge St OB

Relocate farside of Dover & eliminate Woodbridge

Add bench.







Mass Ave @ N Cambridge Carhouse OB

Remove stop to improve stop spacing, bus blocks driveway and insufficient level curb space for accessibility.

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Mass Ave @ Washburn Ave OB

Remove stop to improve stop spacing. Reinstate parking.

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Mass Ave @ Cottage Park Ave IB

Retain stop nearside in conjunction with curb extension. Add shelter.

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Mass Ave @ Gladstone St OB

Retain stop.

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Revised Preliminary Recommendations Route 77 in Arlington

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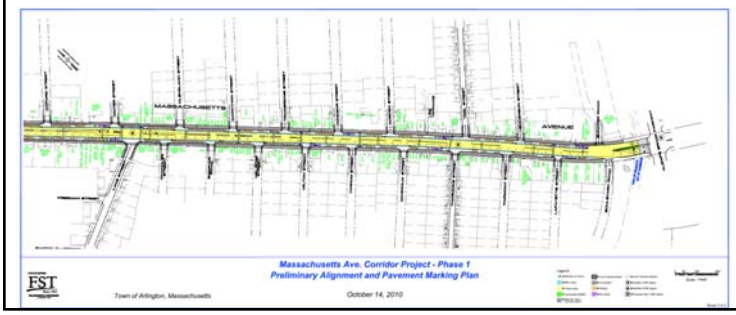
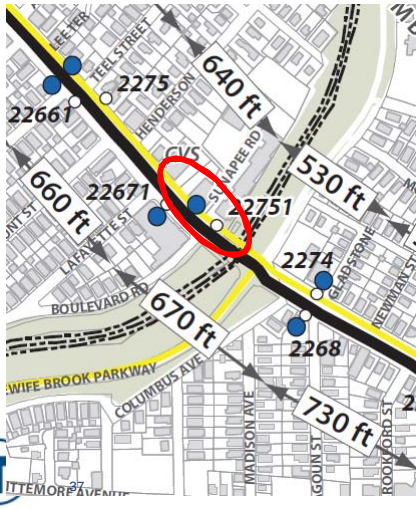
Project Coordination

75% Design



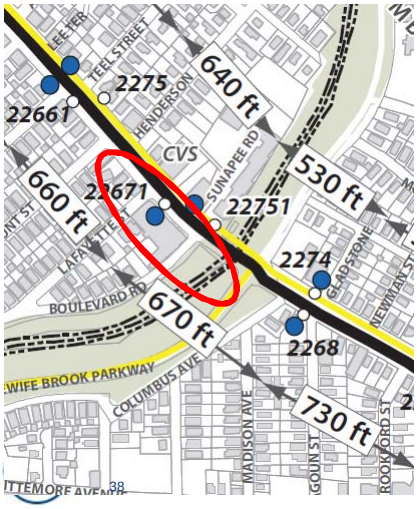
Mass Ave opp Boulevard Rd OB

Relocate to farside of Sunapee.
Add pavement markings.



Mass Ave @ Lafayette St IB

Retain stop. Add pavement markings.

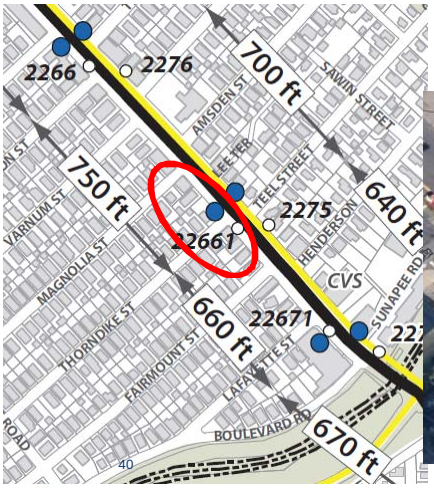


Mass Ave @ Teel OB

Relocate to nearside of Lee. Add pavement markings.

Mass Ave @ Thorndike St IB

Relocate to nearside of Thorndike. Add amenities.



Mass Ave @ Milton St IB

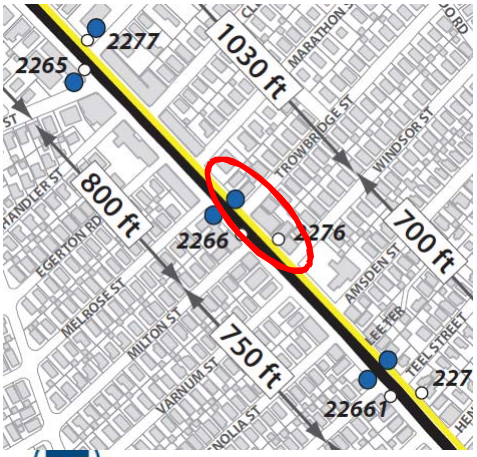
Relocate farside of Melrose St.
Add shelter and trash receptacle.

Mass Ave @ Milton St IB

Relocate crosswalk in Mass Ave Project

Mass Ave @ Windsor St OB

Relocate farside of Trowbridge St. Add amenities.



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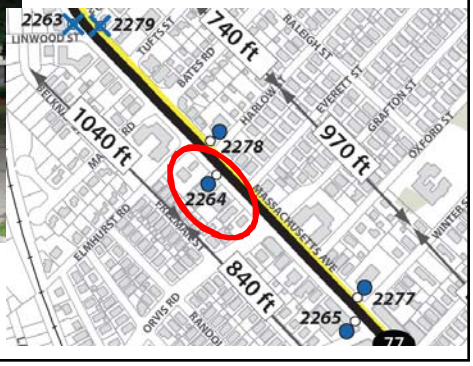
Mass Ave @ 260 Mass Ave IB

Add amenities and investigate adding a shelter.



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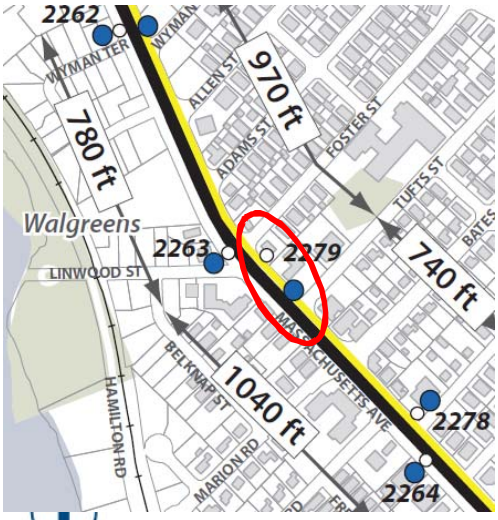
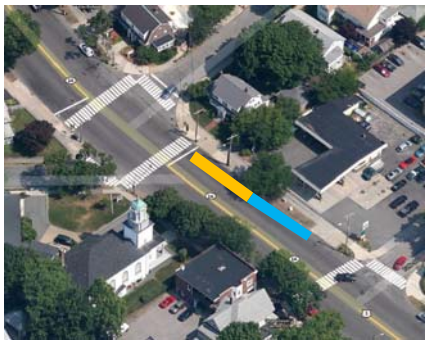
Mass Ave @ Foster OB

Relocate to farside of Tufts.





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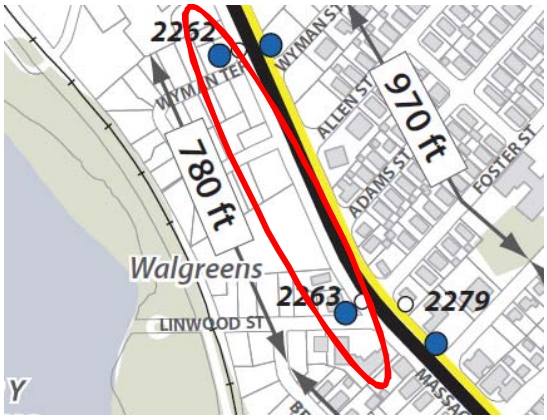
Mass Ave @ Linwood & Wyman IB

Retain stops. Investigate adding a shelter at Linwood and a bench at Wyman.



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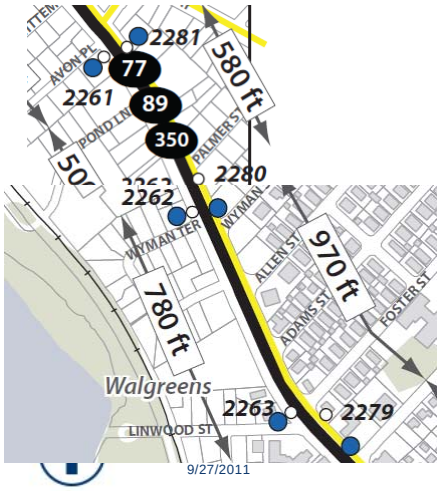
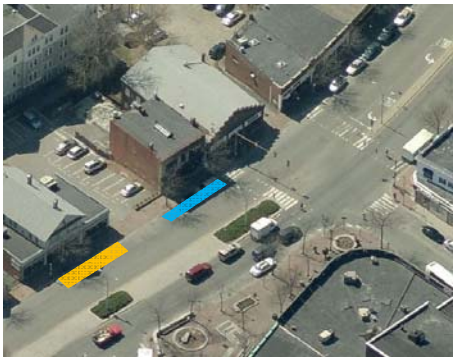
Mass Ave @ Palmer St OB

Relocate to farside of Wyman.
Add pavement markings.



Mass Ave @ Broadway IB

Relocate stop between driveway and crosswalk to improve crosswalk access. Add 2 benches.



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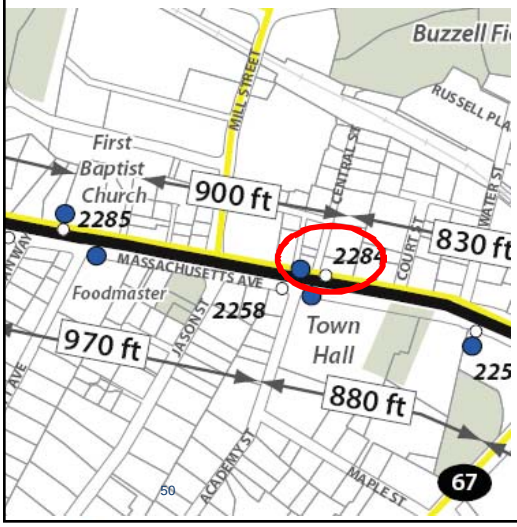
Mass Ave @ Library Way

Proposal to add shelter is withdrawn.

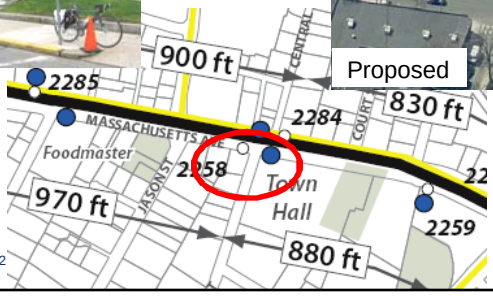
Mass Ave @ Central St OB

Relocate stop to farside of Central St to improve visibility of crosswalk.



Mass Ave @ Academy St IB

Relocate stop farside of Academy St to improve crosswalk access and provide sufficient length. Add bench.



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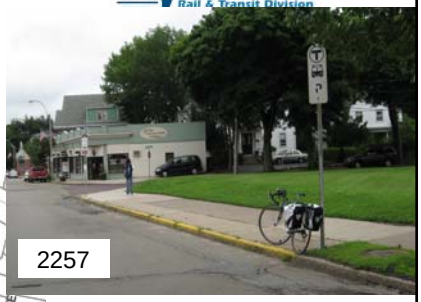
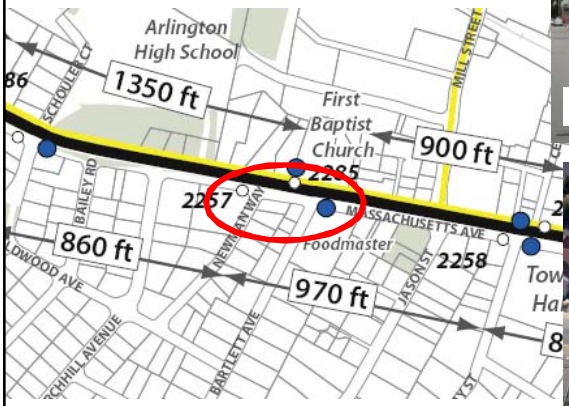
Mass Ave @ Newman IB

Relocate stop to farside of Bartlett. Add shelter.





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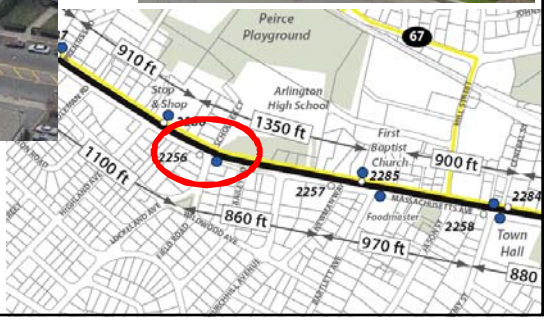
Mass Ave @ Lockeland IB

Relocate stop to farside of Lockeland Ave only if shelter can be installed.



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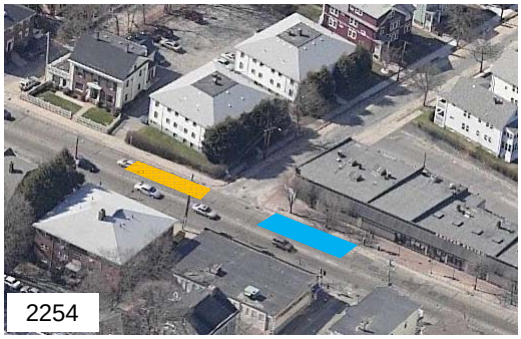
Mass Ave @ Menotomy Rd IB

Relocate stop to nearside of Menotomy Rd. Ad amenities. Investigate adding shelter.



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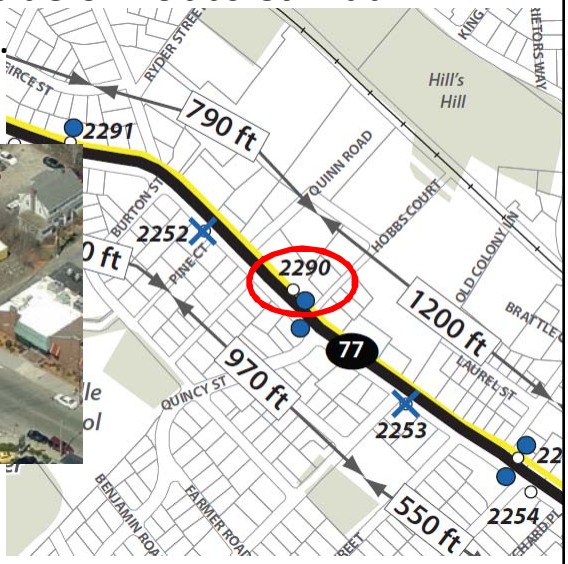
Mass Ave opp Fessenden St OB

Relocate stop to farside of Hobbs Ct. Add pavement markings.



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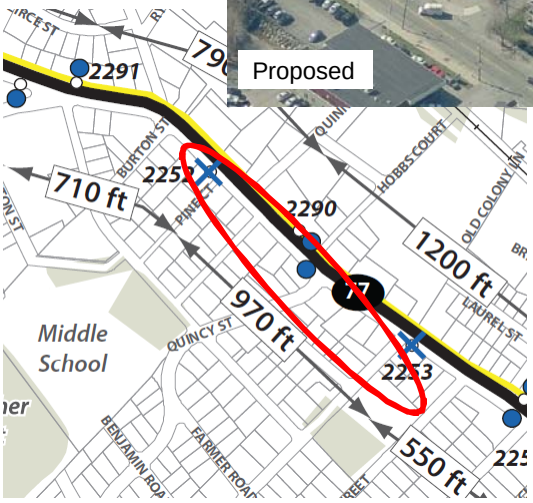
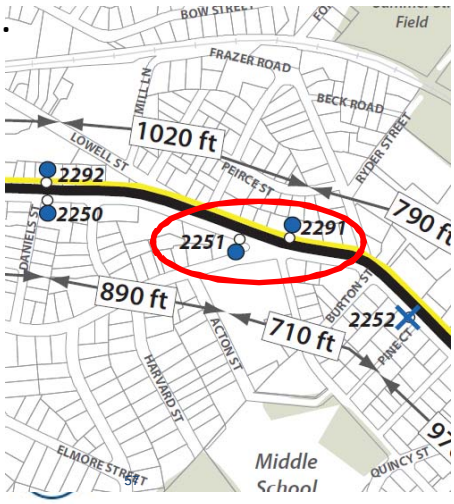
Mass Ave @ Pine & Robbins IB

Consolidate stops to nearside of Quincy St. Add shelter.



Mass Ave @ Appleton St

Lengthen stops and investigate adding shelter at inbound stop.



Mass Ave @ Park Ave

Lengthen IB and OB stops to 90-100'. Remove 2-3 parking spaces at each stop. Add pavement markings. Add 2 benches at inbound stop.

Summary of Preliminary Recommendations – Route 77

- Add shelters, benches, trash receptacles
- Lengthen stops for accessibility
- Relocate stops
- Consolidate stops
  - Current Stop Plan 38 IB/39 OB
  - Proposed Stop Plan 34 IB/32 OB
- Investigate traffic signal improvements
- Sidewalk improvements/curb extensions

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Public Outreach

- Community meetings for each route
- Flyers, e-mail blasts, mailings, newspaper ads
- Outreach to public and elected officials
- Key Bus Route project website

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Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Rail & Transit Division

Comments and Next Steps

- Project Updates at www.mbta.com/keybusroutes
- Mail to MBTA Operations and Service Development, 45 High St, Boston, MA 02110
- Email to keybusroutes@mbta.com
- Submit comments by Friday, October 25, 2011
- Next community meeting:
  - Route 77: October 11, 2011 – North Cambridge Sen. Ctr.
  - Route 71: October 5, 2011 – Mt. Auburn Hospital
- Discussion

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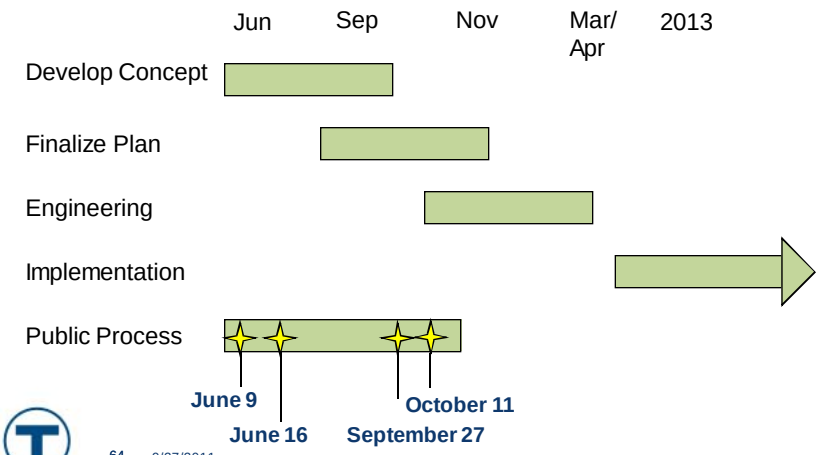
Project Schedule
Bus Route 77



Discussion

These are

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

We want to hear from you!